In the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0041], pages 19-21 as follows:

[0041] Figure 6A shows a block diagram of an embodiment of the invention. A Japanese hiragana character string 601, which has English meaning of "Watch a movie in San Jose", is inputted to the system. The morphological analysis engine (MAE) 604 will look up a database, such as dictionaries 307, to search corresponding Japanese words. The system transmits the portion 602 to the morphological analysis engine (MAE) 604, through a user interface 616. The MAE 604 divides the input into a plurality of sub-strings and communicates with the dictionary management module (DMM) 608 and looks up dictionaries 606 for direct translation for each sub-string. At the mean while, the DMM instructs the virtual dictionary ~~607~~ 609 to create all possible katakana words corresponding to each sub-string. As a result, a pool of words 605 is formed with regular Japanese words from the regular dictionaries 606 and artificially created katakana words from the virtual dictionary 609. In one embodiment, each of those Japanese character strings 605 is associated with a usage frequency value and there is connection relationship information between each of the character set. In another embodiment, each of the character strings 605 is associated with a priority value. Typically the priorities of the artificially created katakana words are lower than the regular words from the regular dictionaries to prevent any confusion. That is, the system will pick the regular words from the regular dictionaries over the artificially created katakana words. The system utilizes the artificially created words only when there are no corresponding regular words from dictionaries 606. The priority information may be stored in the dictionaries 606 as well. Next, the MAE 604 evaluates and analyzes the character strings 605 and applies a set of rules from the database 607. Although database 607 and dictionary 606 are illustrated as separate databases, it would be appreciated that these two databases may be combined to form a single database. The MAE 604 constructs another set of character strings 610 from the character strings 605, based on the set of rules. The words 610 are considered as a candidate list, where the word with least cost value is considered higher priority, such as word 611, while the character set with high cost value, such as word 612, is considered lower priority. Other priority schemes may exist. Based on the candidate

list, the MAE 604 selects a candidate with higher priority, such as character strings613 as final target character string. The character string 613 is then applied to the rest of the character strings to form the final sentence 614.

Please amend paragraph [0045], pages 22-23 as follows:

[0045] Figure 8 shows another embodiment of the invention, where the invention may involve a user interaction. The input 601 contains Japanese hiragana character string where portion 602 (e.g., "San Jose") cannot be directly converted, while portion 603 can be converted through regular dictionaries 606. The system then uses virtual dictionary 609 to create all possible corresponding katakana words for every single sub-strings of portion 602. The morphological analysis engine (MAE) 604 then constructs a candidate list 610 based on a set of rules. The set of rules may include character's usage frequency and connection relationship information between the characters. In another embodiment, the set of rules may contain semantic and grammar rules. A cost value is calculated for each candidate of the list. The candidate with the least cost value has highest priority, while the candidate with the most cost value has lower priority. As shown in **Figure 8,** candidate 611 has highest priority among the candidates in the list. As a result, candidate 611 is selected as a final choice for the conversion by the evaluation unit ~~609~~604. However, in some rare cases, the choice 611 may not be correct, in which case, it involves a user interaction 615. During the user interaction, the user selects portion of the input, such as portion 602 which has an English meaning of "San Jose" and instructs the system to convert it. The system will pull out the pool of all candidates, such as candidate list 610. In one embodiment, the candidate list is displayed through user interface, such as a pop-up window. From the list, the user selects the final output 616 and forms the final sentence 614. Based on the user's selection, the system may update its database (e.g., dictionaries 606 and virtual dictionary 609), so that subsequent conversion will most likely succeed.